

eagerly appoint as Washington's successor, was 1
 lamilton. Not ^f only would the army thus be
 commanded by the chief opponent of the
 Republicans, but all the higher commissions would
 be given to men who were either Federalists or of
 decided Federalist leaning. Even for the lower
 commissions Washington advocated, as is seen in a
 confidential letter to General Davie, this principle
 of selection. He was for giving the first preference
 to competent officers of the old army, but added:
 "If such are not to be found, next, to young
 gentlemen of good families, liberal education, and
 high sense of honor; and thirdly, in neither case to
 any who are known enemies to their own
 government; for they will as certainly attempt to
 create disturbances in the military as they have done
 in the civil administration of their country."

In civil affairs, the administration was no less
 active. On June 2ist, the President sent a special
 message to Congress announcing that he had
 put an end to all negotiations with France by the
 recall of Gerry, the last remaining* envoy in that
 country. Congress now conferred upon the
 President unprecedented powers. The war
 measures put under his direction necessarily
 involved the strictest watchfulness over the large
 body of foreigners resident in America. The term of
 residence necessary to naturalization was
 extended to fourteen years, and it was further
 required that the applicant for naturalization
 papers should prove that he had declared his
 intention of becoming a citizen five years before
 the application. All aliens were required to
 report themselves and be registered by the
 clerks in the district courts. But the extreme of
 the Federalist position was reached when the
 "Alien act" was passed (June 25th, 1798). This
 famous law authorized the President to order out
 of the country all such aliens as he might judge
 to be dangerous to the peace and safety of the
 United States; and if such alien was afterwards
 found in the country, he could be imprisoned for
 three years.

Something was yet needed, however, to reach
 the class whom the Federalists specially feared—
 the native-born Republicans who were in
 opposition to the war fever and to the measures
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